



TPO Board Meeting

Marion County Commission Auditorium
601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471
August 25, 2020
4:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present:

Councilman Ire Bethea
Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Commissioner Jeff Gold, Chair
Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar
Commissioner Ronald Livsey
Councilman Brent Malever, Vice Chair
Commissioner Michelle Stone
Commissioner David Moore
Commissioner Carl Zalak

Members Not Present:

Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilman Justin Grabelle
Councilman Jay Musleh

Others Present:

Rob Balmes, TPO
Derrick Harris, TPO
Liz Mitchell, TPO
Anton Schauerte, TPO
Vickie Wyche, FDOT
Anna Taylor, FDOT
Mike McCammon, FDOT
Tushar Patel, FDOT
Tracy Straub, Marion County
Don Atwell, Marion County
Elton Holland, Marion County
Amber Gartner, Kimley-Horn
Michelle Shearer
Other Members of the Public

Item 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gold called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

Item 2. Roll Call

Mr. Rob Balmes, TPO Director, called the roll and a quorum was present.

Item 3. Proof of Publication

Mr. Rob Balmes, TPO Director, stated the meeting was published online at the TPO website and the City of Ocala, Belleview and Dunnellon and Marion County meeting calendars on August 18, 2020. The meeting was also published to the TPO's Facebook and Twitter pages on August 18, 2020.

Item 4b. 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Status

Mr. Derrick Harris, TPO, provided an update on the progress of the 2045 LRTP with an emphasis on the recent six-week public comment period conducted by a virtual platform. A virtual workshop served as the kick-off of the process on June 18. The public comment period went through July 31. A total of 123 public comments were received by the TPO. The primary goal of this process was to accept feedback to help inform decision-making and setting priorities for developing the LRTP Needs and Cost Feasible plans.

Mr. Harris highlighted some of the major comments by corridor and mode of transportation with a significant amount of emphasis by the public on high volume roadways, such as SR 200, CR 484, US 27, SR 40, Fort King and CR 475. Overall, a total of 61% of the comments involved roadways; 18% pedestrian facilities; 9% trails; 7% bicycle facilities; and 5% transit facilities.

On August 25, the TPO conducted a meeting with the LRTP Steering Committee to begin review of a draft Cost Feasible Plan, which outlines the listing of projects planned to be funded through 2045. Upon their review and submission of comments, the draft Cost Feasible Plan will then be presented to the TAC and CAC and TPO Board at the September meetings. The public comment period will also commence at that time. A draft LRTP document is on schedule to be presented to the TPO Board in October at a Public Hearing and joint TPO Board meeting. The LRTP must be adopted by the TPO Board at the November 24, 2020 meeting.

Item 4a. FDOT District 5 I-75 FRAME Presentation

Mr. Tushar Patel, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), provided a presentation on the I-75 Florida Regional Advanced Mobility Elements (FRAME) project in Marion County. The FRAME project includes the integration of technologies to better manage traffic, improve incident management and travel information dissemination. The project emphasizes I-75, but also includes US 301, US 27 and east/west connectivity on SR 44, SR 200, SR 40, US 27 and SR 326. This project elevates Marion County at the forefront in Florida for the integration of advanced technologies to support modern mobility. The project is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2021. Mr. Patel also discussed how this project will support connected vehicles, and shared a timeframe for a phased integration over time. He highlighted one of the primary benefits in addition to improved mobility is safety. A recent study by the University of Central Florida (UCF) estimates that a fully connected vehicle fleet tied to corridor management will result in up

to a 74% reduction in crashes. Overall, the I-75 FRAME will be highly beneficial to Marion County and Florida, and serve as a national case study as well. Further information can be found on the FDOT's CFL Roads website at: www.cflroads.com.

Item 5a. Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (ICAR) and Public Transportation Collaborative Planning Agreement

Mr. Rob Balmes, TPO, presented a request to approve a revised version of the joint agreement. Based on a notification received by the TPO from Marion County Administration and the County Attorney, the Dunnellon Airport Authority was dissolved in 2020 and must be removed from the partner signature page of the agreement. In addition, County Attorney Russell Ward discussed with an FDOT attorney how to properly ensure the new agreement replaces and supersedes existing agreement put in place in 2017. As a result, new language was added to a revised joint agreement, thereby requiring the entire approval process to start over with all partners. The new agreement includes the omission of Dunnellon Airport Authority and language stating the new agreement replaces and supersedes the current agreement.

Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar made a motion to approve the modifications and revised joint agreement. Commissioner David Moore seconded, and a roll-call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5b. 2020 Traffic Counts Manual and Interactive Map

Mr. Anton Schauerte, TPO, gave a presentation on the newly updated 2020 TPO Traffic Count manual. The document is in a revised format. Mr. Schauerte also presented a new online interactive map to display traffic volumes on the roadway network within the county. The resources serve as a public service to all interested parties.

Commissioner David Moore made a motion to adopt the 2020 Traffic Counts Manual. Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 5c. FDOT/TPO Joint Certification Report

This agenda item was presented as a walk-on by the FDOT District 5.

Commissioner David Moore made a motion to accept the walk-on agenda. Commissioner Kathy Bryant seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Anna Taylor, FDOT District 5, provided a summary overview of the 2020 FDOT/TPO Joint Certification report results. She highlighted that the TPO over the past year has successfully moved from High Risk to Low Risk regarding invoicing, but shall remain at a Monitoring Elevated Risk status over the next year due to being taken off special conditions. Ms. Taylor commended the TPO for their improvements and strong working relationship and communication with the District. She also commended the TPO staff for developing a new website to better serve the public. No corrective actions are recommended at this time.

Commissioner Bryant congratulated the TPO on their score of 100 for the past year, including resolving all corrective issues. Chairman Gold thanked the TPO staff for the good internal communication. He also thanked FDOT for the review and report findings.

Councilwoman Kathy Bryant made a motion to approve the Joint Certification report. Commissioner Michelle Stone seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6a. Consent Agenda (Minutes, July 6 Meeting)

Commissioner Michelle Stone made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Kathy Bryant seconded, and the motion passed unanimously

Item 7. Comments by FDOT

There were no comments by FDOT. The current project status report for August 16, 2020 was provided in the meeting packet.

Item 8. Comments by TPO Staff

Rob Balmes, TPO, provided three updates:

The TPO audit field work continues. The FDOT Office of Inspector General continued to collect information from the TPO staff in August via email inquiries including a conference call on August 4. Mr. Balmes will continue to report back to Chairman Gold and the Board, and ensure the OIG is invited to present their report and findings at a future board meeting.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, the federal authorization for transportation, expires in five weeks on September 30, 2020. Based on state and national discussions, an extension is likely into early next year. The TPO Board will be notified regarding the status as soon as made available.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adopted by the TPO Board on July 6, was submitted to the FDOT. Upon their second review, no further comments or concerns were identified. The TIP will be integrated into the overall FDOT STIP.

Item 9. Comments by TPO Members

Commissioner Kathy Bryant highlighted the M-Cores Northern Turnpike Task Force meeting to take place on August 26. She anticipated the meeting will involve robust conversation about issues and opportunities associated with the project and study area. The meeting will be virtual and held in Crystal River as an in-person option.

Item 10. Public Comment

Michelle Shearer, Marion County resident, provided public comment. She emphasized the need to preserve the scenic roads in the county and maintain them as two lanes, especially CR 475A. Keeping the roadways two lanes and also improving shoulders is important. She encouraged TPO Board to keep all scenic roads in the county to two lanes for future planning.

Item 11. Adjournment

Chairman Gold adjourned the meeting at 4:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Rob Balmes, TPO Director